



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Minutes, Oct. 2010

### **Vision 2020 Diversity Task Group (DTG)**

**Minutes, October 18, 2010**

Approved at November 8, 2010 meeting

**Present:** Jane Howard, Kathy Knox, Kaitlyn O'Connell (co-chair), Carolyn Parsons, Ilana Rhodes, Miriam Stein (co-chair), and Liz Sura.

We discussed the logistics of complying with the new Open Meeting Law requirements.

The minutes of the September 12, 2010, meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Increasing Diversity Among Town Meeting Members:

Parsons summarized the activities to date - articles in the Advocate, flyers sent home to parents of children in the Thompson School, flyers at Candidates Night -

A sub-group will meet to propose additional strategies. Sub-group members to date are: Barbara Boltz, Kathy Knox, Ilana Rhodes, Carolyn Parsons, Clare Gordon, Miriam Stein, and Liz Sura. The Town Moderator, John Leone, has expressed interest in showing an orientation video that would be aimed at new Town Meeting Members or citizens interested in running for Town Meeting.

Members of the DTG attended the meeting of the Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee with the Superintendent of Schools and look forward to the annual report on minority hiring. A coffee has been scheduled for January 25 with staff of color currently employed in the Arlington public schools. Stein will reach out to the Black Educator's Alliance of Massachusetts to see how the Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee can collaborate with them. An April coffee is planned for job seekers who left their resumes at the Arlington Public Schools table at the MA Partnership for Diversity in Education job fair.

Having a goal of increasing the diversity among Diversity Task Group members, discussion revolved around such diverse ideas as contacting parents who have adopted children from foreign countries, distributing flyers to a group having language classes at Robbins Library, and reaching out to the Latino community by having signs that include Spanish at restaurants, Zocalo and La Posada.

Those people who expressed an interest in the DTG at Town Day will be contacted and invited to the next DTG meeting. O'Connell will contact those who did not leave a phone number by email. Others present volunteered to call the rest.

Each year a survey on matters of current interest/public policy in Arlington is compiled by Vision 2020 and included with the mailing of the Town's census. Included within this survey is a statement highlighting each task group of Vision 2020. Members were asked to think about what current project should be used by the DTG to attract new members. Submitted by Carolyn Parsons, [carolynmparsons@msn.com](mailto:carolynmparsons@msn.com).